

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Anchorage Field Office  
**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) FORM**

**CX No.:** AK-040-03-CX-002

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: AA-084286

**Proposed Action Title/Types:** Stuckagain Snag Removal Project and Chain Saw Training Session for Alaska Fire Service.

**Location of Proposed Action:** 18-acre block of land on Fort Richardson adjacent to the Stuckagain Heights Subdivision.

**Description of Proposed Action:** To remove 125 snags out of 200 on an 18-acre block of BLM lands withdrawn for the military on Fort Richardson and adjacent to the Stuckagain Subdivision. Clearing techniques will be conducted to precluded erosion. Existing roads and trails will be used for access. Snags will be felled and yarded out with the use of four wheelers or chainsaw winches. If this is unfeasible, then large pieces will be left on site. The majority of the snags are in the upper 2/3 of the unit on a 15-20% slope. Logs will be skidded and bucked for free firewood. Alder will be removed as needed for access or safety concerns; an effort will be made to protect all aspen, birch, willow and ground surface from any damage.

For wildlife use, three hard snags and two soft snags per acre will be left standing. If two soft snags are unavailable, then two additional hard snags will remain. At least two additional downed large snags will be left per acre across the slope.

As part of this project, slash will be piled. At a later date, the Military will prepare a burn plan and burn the slash. This will also serve as a Chain Saw Training Session for Alaska Fire Service personnel.

This project is planned to take place in the month of October 2002.

**Applicant (if any):** Range Control, Ft. Richardson, Anchorage, Alaska

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**PART I - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW**

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**This Proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan:**

43 CFR 1610.5 requires that the proposed action be in conformance with the land use plan for the site. This Proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan:

Southcentral Management Framework Plan

Date Plan Approved: March 1980

The Proposed Action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM MS 1617.3).

**Remarks:** Land is withdrawn for Military use.

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**PART II - NEPA REVIEW**

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A. Categorical Exclusion Review.

This Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 2, Appendix 1. \_\_\_\_\_ or 516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4. C.2

“Sale and removal of individual trees or small groups of trees which are dead, diseased, injured or which constitute a safety hazard, and where access for the removal requires no more than maintenance to existing roads.”

B. Departmental Exceptions Review.

The following Departmental List of Exceptions apply to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that environmental documents **MUST BE PREPARED** for actions which may: (Mark applicable answer for each item. If "yes", prepare an EA/EIS and append this form to it.)

- |   | YES | NO       |
|---|-----|----------|
| 1. Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety.   | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 2. Have adverse effects on unique geographic characteristics, historic or cultural resources, park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, Floodplains, or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks. | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 3. Have highly controversial environmental effects.   | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.  | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 5. Establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.   | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 6. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant environmental effects.  | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 7. Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.   | ___ | <u>X</u> |

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8. Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated critical habitat for these species.        X
9. Require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Flood plain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.        X
10. Threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.        X

I certify that none of the Departmental exceptions listed in the above Part B (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) apply to this action.

**Remarks:** The Military prepared a ARecord of Environmental Consideration@ for this project; reviewed, approved and signed September 30, 2002. A copy is contained in the project folder.

Preparer(s): /s/ Brian Sterbenz Date: 10-04-02

**PART III – DECISION**

I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed **Stuckagain Snag Removal Project and Chainsaw Training Session** is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, with the mitigation measures either identified below or stipulation(s) attached in this case file.

**Mitigation Measures/Other Remarks:** The Project Inspector will identify a site for stockpiling firewood for public use. No tracked vehicles will be used within the unit.

BLM will issue a free use permit to the army for the removal of vegetative resources (trees). This material will be made available to the public as firewood at no cost.

**Remarks:** Project is scheduled for the week of October 14, 2002 weather permitting.

**Authorized Official:** /s/ June Bailey **Date:** 10-07-02